

IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 15, 2017

Members Present:

Janet Adams	Manny Atwood
Cecil Dolecheck	Jeff Edler
Tim Fitzgibbon	Rachael Johnson
Kassidy Krause	Katie Mulholland
Mary Pudenz	Mark Putnam
Herman Quirmbach	Doug Shull
Jeremy Varner	Cindy Winckler

Members Absent:

Michael Ash

Staff Present:

Todd Brown	Jason Grinstead
Elizabeth Keest-Sedrel	Julie Leeper
Tristan Lynn	Karen Misjak
Julie Ntem	Lisa Pundt
Zach Rhein	Christina Sibaouih
Darcie Sprouse	Ashley Wendt

AG Present:

Emily Willits

Guests Present:

Mary Braun	Board of Regents
Angie Carlson	Capri College
David Epley	House Democratic Staff
Robin Madison	Legislative Services

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on September 15, 2017. Commission Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Misjak said Governor Reynolds' weekly press conference will take place at Saydel High School on September 25, 2017. The FAFSA application will become available on October 1, 2017 and the Commission is starting a campaign to ensure that students and parents know to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible. Ms. Misjak added that a data sharing agreement with the Iowa Department of Education was just signed that will allow staff to provide more accurate data around this initiative. When the FAFSA data is received from the USDE staff will be able to match actual senior class students. Staff will be tracking by each school's senior cohort instead of age range from the FAFSA.

Ms. Misjak announced National GEAR UP week is next week. She shared that Governor Reynolds' will sign a proclamation on September 18, 2017. In attendance for the signing will be twenty GEAR UP Iowa students as well as educators and parents. This signing will take place in the Governor's Office. The students will then take a tour of the Capitol. Ms. Misjak said other schools around the state will be hosting events to promote the importance of higher education and building a college going culture. Commissioners are encouraged to attend any event that their schedules permit.

Ms. Misjak said staff is in the process of finalizing year-end numbers for the state programs. The Commission has awarded aid to 22,701 students totaling over \$70.8 million. This is based on the decrease of scholarship and grant appropriations of \$108,000 from the 2015-16 school year. There were 340 awards in the loan repayment programs that totaled over \$3.8 million. A report may be found on the Higher Education Data Center, which lists the name of each institution, the dollar amount under each program, and the number of students served under each program. An announcement will be made to Commissioners when the report is ready to be viewed.

In the past, the Board of Regents has always completed the annual Postsecondary Enrollment Report. Ms. Misjak said the Commission has been asked to produce this report this year. To collect this data staff will be adding additional questions to the surveys that we already send out to the schools. Commissioner Varner said the Community Colleges will provide their numbers for this report as well.

Ms. Misjak said bids are being solicited from vendors to help GEAR UP school districts with ACT Test Preparation Services. This service would help the districts by providing additional resources around preparing GU students to take the ACT in 11th Grade. In response to a question from Commissioner Fitzgibbon, Ms. Misjak said this could potentially help 8,200 students.

Ms. Misjak distributed a copy of the State's Single Audit Report. She said there were two findings listed in the report. The first finding was related to the GAAP Package that is submitted September 1 each year, it is dealing with the hold over period between the two state fiscal years, and some numbers were either overstated or understated. The other finding was in regards to a code requirement that staff was unaware. Each agency is to establish a goal that increases the amount spent the previous year with Targeted Small Businesses.

Minutes of Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to approve the meeting minutes for the July 21, 2017 as corrected. Rachael Johnson abstained from voting on the GEAR UP Trust draw down because she was a GEAR UP scholarship recipient and it was noted that Jeremy Varner was present for the meeting and listed twice. Commissioner Mulholland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Administrative Rules

Motion: Commissioner Varner moved to "Adopt and File Emergency After Notice" amendments to Administrative Rules Chapter 8 – "All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship" and Chapter 9 – "All Iowa Opportunity Foster Care Grant Program". Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to "Adopt and File Emergency After Notice" new Administrative Rules Chapter 11 – "Iowa Tuition Grant Program—For Profit Institutions". Commissioner Varner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ETV Contract Extension

Mr. Brown said this is the second extension to the ETV Contract. In 2000 the Department of Human Services (DHS) contracted with the Commission to administer the ETV program because the Commission had the capacity and system already in place to do so. DHS

pays all administrative costs for this program. Mr. Brown added that references to the All Iowa Opportunity Foster Grant was removed as well as other technical updates and annual year updates were made to the contract.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to authorize the Executive Director to extend the agreement with the Iowa Department of Human Services for the administration of the Education Training Voucher (ETV) for the October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018 term. Commissioner Mulholland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee Report

Ms. Leeper provided the appropriation recommendation that is due to the Governor's office on October 1, 2017. The Commission's budget meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2017. Ms. Leeper said on behalf of the Commissioners, Chair Adams has presented an alternate budget request.

Motion: Commissioner Putnam moved to approve the appropriation recommendation as presented. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion, which passed with Commissioner Varner abstaining.

Bylaws

Motion: Commissioner Mulholland moved to adopt the amendments to the Bylaws as presented. Commissioner Shull seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Ms. Misjak provided an update of the FY 2017 year-to-date financials. Ms. Misjak shared there will be an office relocation when the lease expires in May 2018. The budget that was approved in May did not include moving and renovation expenses. She said this will be brought in front of the Commission when more information is available.

Ms. Pundt provided an update of approvals in postsecondary registration. All Regent universities are now SARA approved.

Mr. Brown gave an accreditation report summary.

Agency staff provided an overview of the strategic plan.

Commissioner Putnam told the Commission that he, like many others, is a member of the Future Ready Iowa Alliance and the Iowa Stem Council Advisory Committee, as well as several other boards. He noted that these entities are reviewing state education needs and what the future will be with respect to planning to meet those needs.

Commissioner Putnam said this is an important time in Iowa when the state is considering how to move forward. He noted that, depending on a person's outlook there is either overlap or synergy among those working to advance educational plans across the state. He noted that legislation and funding requests are likely to be advanced during the upcoming session that seem to overlap with the Commission's work and programs.

While Commissioner Putnam has identified what seems to be overlap, the Future Ready Iowa Communications plan established by President Wee made only one reference to the Commission and its work – that reference being to the Future Ready Iowa asset mapping initiative. Commissioner Putnam encouraged inter-agency and inter-entity conversations because the profile of the Commission is not where he believes Commissioners want it to be. He said the many movements taking place simultaneously affect the voice of the Commission and its role.

He said the Commission message and communication efforts should be on Commissioner's minds so that the Commission can plan the role it should take in the greater educational conversation. How can the Commission become a more active entity in the discussion and/or the movement of legislation?

Commissioners Adams agreed that the Commission must better define its profile in such discussions. This is a topic being addressed by NCHEMS under its contract with the Commission. She acknowledged the many discussions among state agencies and the concern that often information from the Commission is utilized but the Commission itself is not at the table for discussions.

Senator Quirnbach encouraged those who attend Future Ready Iowa Alliance meetings to speak up and take the initiative to contact the people finalizing the Alliance's recommendations, especially if the message can encourage inclusion of the Commission. He expressed concern that Future Ready Iowa's end product may be reinventing what the Commission does and overlapping the Commission's expertise. He indicated that he would appreciate more resources in programs administered by the Commission but would not appreciate duplication of effort – especially if it is in ignorance of what the Commission does.

Representative Winckler expressed the concern of some of her constituents that the Future Ready Iowa Alliance is using telephone surveys to measure progress rather than using

data from reliable sources such as the Commission or other nationally-known researchers. She said information from Iowa Workforce Development indicates that 59 percent of Iowans have credentials, whereas national data indicates that only 47 percent of Iowans are credentialed.

Commissioner Putnum said a decision has been made to agree that, if an individual is earning 25 percent more than a typical salary in that person's job class, the individual is recognized as credentialed. He argued that recognized credentials should be durable and portable and industry-recognized. However, that is not the recognized standard. He further noted that a convergence is beginning to emerge taking into consideration credentialing, middle skills and apprenticeship models. All entities working in this "space" are all beginning to understand that programmatic reach is limited because there are human implications. The Commission needs to communicate its work in this discussion and promote what it is doing to help Iowans remove barriers and get credentialed.


With respect to discussion about a last-dollar-scholar, the Commission needs to acknowledge that the Future Ready Iowa Alliance is moving forward. The Commission needs to ask where that scholarship will be administered. The Commission also needs to ask how the program will move Iowa forward into alignment and integration across the state. Commissioner Putnam expressed concern that the state may be about to create another entity rather than using what is currently in place.

Commissioner Mulholland said the Commission must ensure that its message is heard and emphasize and acknowledge the purpose of all the work being done by the Commission and other state entities for Iowa students.

Adjourned at 11:23 a.m.



Janet Adams, Chair



Katie Mulholland, Vice Chair